

# Storm sewers should help ease drainage woes

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## MADISON TOWNSHIP

- Having roadsides dug up is an inconvenience to a community, but a necessity. In the case of Madison Township the inconvenience is part of the solution to flooding problems, especially after record rainfalls in 2011.

"There's been a major drainage problem in Madison Township for years," said Larry Advey, township administrator.

Part of the problem in the township's north end was the lack of planning when developments were built, he said. While swales were put in back yards for drainage, over the years homeowners changed them, built sheds on them or filled them in (apparently unaware of their original purpose).

Advey said, as summer cottages became year-round residences, people wanted road improvements. Those were made, but without storm sewers being installed and with ditches being filled in.

All of those things added together created the right circumstances for flooding.

"It's a lot of flatland and it's got high water tables," Advey said. "It's a compounding issue that's been going on for a long, long time.

Adding to the problem, the 500-year storm of July 2006 changed some water flows.

While the intervening years helped drop the water tables, the greater than normal rains of 2011 brought them all back up again.

"You get a half-inch rain and all of a sudden you've got flooding and issues to deal with," Advey said.

To clarify things, he explained that the Lake County Department of Utilities was responsible for sanitary sewers in the township; the township was responsible for installation and maintenance of storm sewers.

Prior to Advey's employment about eight years ago, the township did storm sewers on Davista Drive and Oldsmar. Now, the township is putting in the larger trunk lines in several locations.

The main problem with installing the storm sewers is arranging financing, Advey said. In order to arrange it, the township partners with Ohio Public Works Commission and the Lake County Stormwater Management Department.

The Orkney Project, for example, is expected to cost \$337,647 for construction and \$403,000 with engineering included. OPWC gave a grant of \$95,000; LCSWMD put in \$100,000; Madison

Township, \$108,000 and obtained an interest-free OPWC \$100,000 20-year loan.

Bathgate and North Watling Way, which is in process now, has a construction cost of \$386,629. The most recent project to start is Red Bird Road at a cost of \$600,000. These projects have similar splits of grants and loans as the Orkney Project.

The trunk lines being installed in these projects are up to 36 inches. In the future, as time and money allows, the township will have its workers begin installing 8- to 12-inch lines down adjoining streets to help drain them. The township workers can do those because they do not have to run as deep as the trunk lines.

Unfortunately, given the economic times, it is not known when those might be installed.

Advey noted the Lake County Commissioners were cutting the fees for LCSWMD in half, so there would also be fewer funds available to help with trunk line projects.

"The other trunk line that has been talked about would be going from Shore, south of Bathgate, all the way to Chapel Road," Advey said. "That's going to be astronomical in cost."